

REMARKS


In response to the Advisory Action dated June 12, 2001, and the March 5, 2001, Office Action finally rejecting all claims, Applicants are filing this Request for Continued Examination (RCE) application. The application is filed to allow consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement submitted February 20, 2001, and to submit the instant preliminary amendment. On page 2 of the Advisory Action of June 12, 2001, the Examiner referred to a 4/27/01 Information Disclosure Statement. In a telephone call on 7/27/01, the Examiner corrected the date to 2/20/01. Accordingly, the February 20, 2001, Information Disclosure Statement is resubmitted for consideration with this preliminary amendment.

Claims 66-69, 72-76, and 78-88 are pending in the application. Applicants have amended independent claims 66 and 83 to clarify that the invention is a multi-layered granule. Applicants submit new matter has not been introduced by the instant amendment.

Applicants have attached hereto a marked up version of the changes made to the claims in this preliminary amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE TO THE CLAIMS

66. (Once amended) A granule comprising,

- a) a seed particle and
- b) a protein matrix layered over [surrounding] the seed particle wherein said matrix includes a protein mixed together with a combination of a sugar or sugar alcohol and a polysaccharide structuring agent.

83. (Once amended) An enzyme granule comprising,

- a) a seed particle and
 - b) an enzyme matrix layered over [surrounding] the seed particle
- wherein said matrix includes an enzyme mixed together with a combination of a sugar and a polysaccharide structuring agent, said enzyme selected from the group consisting of proteases, amylases, lipases and cellulases and said polysaccharide structuring agent selected from the group consisting of starch, modified starch, cellulose, modified cellulose, carrageenan, gum arabic, xanthan gum, locust bean gum, and guar gum.